

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 15, page 14 with the following paragraph.

--A pure culture of the Escherichia coli K-12 strain MG442 Δ pckA was deposited on 2nd October 2000 at the Deutsche Sammlung für Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (DSMZ), Mascheroder Weg 1B, D-3300 Braunschweig, Germany (DSMZ = German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures, Braunschweig, Germany) in accordance with the Budapest Treaty as DSM 13761.—

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 21, page 14 with the following paragraph.

--A pure culture of the Escherichia coli K-12 strain B-3996kur Δ tdh Δ pckA/pVIC40 was deposited on 9th March 2001 at the Deutsche Sammlung für Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (DSMZ), Mascheroder Weg 1B, D-3300 Braunschweig, Germany (DSMZ = German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures, Braunschweig, Germany) in accordance with the Budapest Treaty as DSM 14150.--